

# The Tractor Times

## October 2023



**Please Note:**  
There will not be anymore meetings scheduled for 2023. Please watch the Website for any new information.

**In This Issue:**  
President's Message  
Justin's Diecast Corner  
Officers Voted in for 2024  
Greg's Upcoming Event  
Sponsor Ads  
—and MUCH MORE

*“Restoring the past for the Future”*

# President's Letter



Ahhhhhh! The crisp October air is here. The colors, the smell of fall foliage, the bright gold corn fields. I love this time of the year! The 2023 season is winding down and soon it will be a winter wonderland! (I can wait a while for that, LOL)

As most of you should know, we held our last club meeting for 2023 on September 16th. I am going to share the highlights of that meeting with you now.

For the first order of business, all the members had a moment of silence to honor the victims and first responders of 9/11.

The second order of business was to hold our annual elections for the Board of Directors, Club officers, and appointed positions within the Club. Jerry Russell, Keith Stewart, and Ted Boals were all re-elected to serve another 3 years on the board. Betty Hassett was elected to fill the vacant seat left by Dave Snyder. Congratulations to you all!! There is a complete rundown on the elections later in this newsletter.

Another note I am excited to share with you is our membership has grown from 49 to 51!! I would like to welcome new members Ben Owens from Frederic, MI, and Dale and Patricia Delancey from Tustin, MI. Congratulations and welcome to our Club!!

This year, things were off a bit. While not anything like during the pandemic, the absence of the Mackinac Bridge Tractor crossing made things a bit different. We as a club decided to lessen the number of meetings and newsletters just a bit. This was done for one main reason- the bridge crossing is usually a big topic of discussion during the course of the spring and summer months. There is much to be done in preparation for our members to participate in the event. Without the crossing this year, it took a lot off of our plate of things to do and discuss. The need for every meeting and newsletter wasn't necessary, so we trimmed back a little.

At this point in time, it is unclear what the future holds for the bridge crossing event. It sounds like we probably won't have any new information until sometime early 2024. We will keep you posted. Any announcements made regarding the event will be shared with you via email, Facebook, and our Club website.

Over the winter months, we will be busy working on more updates to the Club website- adding

more content, pictures, etc. We will also be working on the Club Facebook page, which is up and running! Be sure to check it out and get involved! A BIG THANK YOU to Justin for getting the digital part of our club going strong!!

I want to give recognition to a few other folks- A HUGE THANK YOU out to Sandy Boals, for stepping up and taking over the duties of the Club newsletter, as well as her performing all of her other duties as Club treasurer, keeping the memorial board up to date, and rounding up items to put in the door prize drawings. Her and I are also getting ready to tackle the HUGE and vitally important job of visiting our Club sponsors and getting their ads renewed for 2024.

I want to give a HUGE THANK YOU to Greg Hansmeier, who despite the fact he has been immobile for the whole season, he has managed to keep up on the details for our Club events and get you guys descriptive articles with all the vital details mixed with a hint of humor. AND- a HUGE THANK YOU to Steve Larson for his continued work as our secretary, our vice president, for taking the reins of bridge crossing rep, and doing the remarkable job you do keeping the Union Township grounds looking great!

Thank you to the rest of our board of directors for being part of the team and for your timely responses to email voting matters. One more to recognize-I could not forget this one- we have a new champion in Dale Hassett-he has mastered the ability to be the first hand to shoot up to make a motion at the meetings!! LOL!! We all love ya Dale!!

We have now begun collecting membership dues for 2024. Please see the complete details on this in the membership corner section of the newsletter. Remember- dues must be received by January 1st, 2024.

Finally, I hope everyone enjoys their fall season! We have no further meetings scheduled for this year, and one event left (as I write this, Samels Farm is next Sunday, Oct 8th). October's newsletter will be the last one for this season, and will pick up again in April 2024. Many of our members are preparing to travel to their winter destinations. I wish you all safe travels! Also the holidays are just around the corner. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and be safe in all your travels!! I look forward to seeing you all in 2024

Mike Polega  
President  
Great Lakes Antique Tractor Club



# Membership Report



Hello fellow club members!

It is that time of year again! Time to renew your club dues for 2024! Members can send their 2024 dues (20.00) to the following:

Make checks payable to Great Lakes Antique Tractor Club or "GLATC" and mail to:

Mike Polega, Membership Director  
11895 E M 55  
Cadillac, MI 49601

For those members currently receiving a paper copy of the newsletter — if you wish to continue, please include an additional 10.00 with your membership dues (total 30.00). This helps cover the cost of printing and postage. If you wish to switch to receiving your newsletter by email, please send us a valid email address.

Remember, per the club by-laws all membership dues must be received by January 1st, 2024. Reminder emails and letters will go out to those that have yet to send in their dues around mid-December. PLEASE- save me some time and send in your dues as early as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. THANK YOU!!

Please Note:

If you are a new member that just signed up with us from August 2023 forward, you do not need to renew for 2024- your new membership will take you thru 2024.

Mike Polega  
Membership Director  
Great Lakes Antique Tractor Club





# Annual Election Results for 2024

from the September 16th, 2023 membership meeting, which includes a recap of before and after elections:



## Board seats up for election-

Jerry Russell  
Keith Stewart (interim for Jill Shannon)  
Ted Boals  
Vacant Seat (Dave Snyder)



## Board seats election results:

Jerry Russell  
Keith Stewart  
Ted Boals  
Betty Hassett



## Club Officers (before election):

President- Mike Polega  
Vice President- Steve Larson  
Secretary- Steve Larson  
Treasurer- Sandy Boals  
Membership Director- Mike Polega



## Club Officers (after election):

President- Mike Polega  
Vice-President- Steve Larson  
Secretary- Steve Larson  
Treasurer- Sandy Boals  
Membership Director- Mike Polega



## Appointed Positions:

Historian- Greg Hansmeier  
Newsletter- Jean Springberg/Sandy Boals (interim)  
Website Manager- Justin Polega  
Activities Coordinator- Greg Hansmeier  
Advertising Managers- Mike Polega, Sandy Boals  
Bridge Crossing Rep- Steve Larson  
Memorial Board- Sandy Boals  
Door Prize Coordinator- Sandy Boals  
Door Prize Helpers- Shannon Polega, Justin



# Justin's Diecast Corner

## ISSUE # 13

### The MAMOD Model TE1A Steam Traction Engine.

Written by: Justin Polega



**WHAT IS STEAM POWER?** When steam is built up in a steam engine, the pressure from the steam pushes the piston back and forth in the cylinder, which moves the crank and the flywheel all at the same time. This power is then used for work.

**BRIEF HISTORY OF STEAM:** The very first crude design of a steam engine was actually invented back in 1698 by Thomas Savery of England. This steam engine was designed to pump water out of coal mines. Fast-forwarding to the 1800's, steam was becoming more popular. Farmers wanted something other than an animal to work with, and they wanted a machine that ran under its own power to do jobs around the farm.

Thomas Aveling was actually the one to come out with the design of the Steam Traction engine in 1858. Their initial designs were just an engine on a cart that had to be hauled around with an animal of some sort. After a while, they implemented gears into the engine and placed wheels big enough to support the engine on the new designs. Steam was extremely useful for threshing and plowing on the farm, but steam was not just isolated to jobs on the farm.

The introduction of the Railroad: George Stephenson and his son Robert were the inventors of the first steam locomotive. Steam powered everything was popular during the 1800's and early 1900's. As far as the best manufacturer's for steam traction engines, one of them is J.I. CASE. They produced the most steam traction engines of any other company out there at that time making steam engines.

**HISTORY OF MAMOD:** This company is famous for making live toy steam engines in various forms such as stationary engines, traction engines, Mamod workshop pieces (run off the engine) and locomotives. The company was founded in 1937 in Birmingham UK by Geoffrey Malins. Since then, the company headquarters is now based out of Smethwick, Wavely UK. The company is still very much around today selling engines and parts/accessories for their engines. To order an engine or a part, you just go to their website which is [mamod.co.uk](http://mamod.co.uk). You can even send your engine directly to MAMOD and have it repaired.

**STEAMING UP YOUR ENGINE:** To build up steam in any steam engine, including the model ones, there is a procedure to follow. First, you examine your engine for cracks, leaks or anything that might harm the engine or anybody around it. For full size engines, cleaning out the Flues after so long is needed. The flues are part of the steam engine's exhaust system and if they are not properly cleaned, can cause coal/soot buildup and possibly catch fire. Other engines might have a double chimney, which doesn't require cleaning flues because they don't have flues. After that, fill your boiler with the appropriate amount of water.

On my model engine I usually used preheated water to fill it up. To do that, you remove the overflow plug from the back of the engine and fill the boiler until water comes out the back. Then, I must screw the pressure relief valve back in as well as the overflow plug. Oiling the engine's pivot points and cylinders is next to make sure proper lubrication occurs. After that, you are ready to fuel up.

My engine is equipped with a Methylated Spirit (denatured alcohol) Tray burner, so I fill it up with denatured alcohol.



~continued from page 5

Large steam engines often run on wood, coal, or even butane fuel for new engines that have been converted. Once steam is up, look at your gauge on a larger engine, but for mine you blow the whistle and pop the flywheel over. On large engines, a lever is moved and various methods of spinning the flywheel to start it are used. Larger engines take up to 4 hours to steam while mine takes up to 10 minutes with cold water.

again and got it to move a bit more. I eventually got a little piece of scotch brite pad to clean the cylinder lining and the connecting rod/piston. I had to take the piston and everything out to clean it well, and I slathered it with oil going back together. I then steamed it up once again and got it to move a bit more. My guess is that since the engine has only been steamed up a handful of times, it needs to work itself in. That also might be why it always leaked a bit of water when under a load.

**STEAM ENGINE CAPABILITIES:** A full size steam engine is capable of plowing with a multi-bottom plow with the number of bottoms depending on the size of the traction engine. The range of horsepower for average Steam traction engines (since I couldn't find definite numbers) is 40 to 110 HP. The Steam engine was also used quite widely for threshing.

Threshing was separating the edible part of the grain from the husks of the plant, which was done by a machine that revolves. The machine can be powered by an animal, or later on a steam engine or a regular tractor. A full size steam engine weighs on average around 25,000 lbs!

My engine can move under its own power, and

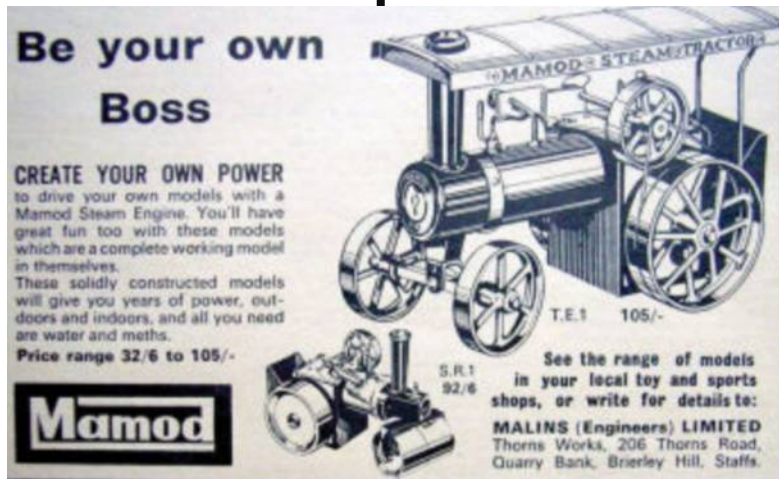
power numerous pieces of little equipment all at once. Those pieces are also produced by Mamod. I have added pieces to my engine like rubber tires, and a new drive band so it will move by itself.

**POST-STEAM UP ISSUES:** A couple years ago when I steamed up this engine at the summer kickoff meeting, I had an issue making it move. The engine had only been steamed up a handful of times, and it had not yet moved under its own power. I had the original drive band, but it was not good nor usable. So the engine was only just spinning and not moving the tractor itself. I had received two new drive bands prior to the meetings, so I installed one.

As you could recall, the steam up was not as successful as I had hoped it to be. Once I got the engine home, I steamed it up once again and got it to move a bit more. I eventually got a little piece of scotch brite pad to clean the

cylinder lining and the connecting rod/piston. I had to take the piston and everything out to clean it well, and I slathered it with oil going back together. I then steamed it up once again and got it to move a bit more. My guess is that since the engine has only been steamed up a handful of times, it needs to work itself in. That also might be why it always leaked a bit of water when under a load.

**SOURCES:** [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), [www.wikipedia.co](http://www.wikipedia.co), steam engine book, my general knowledge.





~ by Greg Hansmeier

## UPCOMING EVENT

Samel Farm Harvest  
Gathering  
Sunday, October 08, 2023  
1:00 PM to 4:00



This paragraph is the 2023 recitation of the write ups over the past years. For the newer members, some history is a good place to start. For everyone else, you may want to skip this paragraph. It was a self-sustaining farm owner by the Samels family, They farmed the 82 acres from 1895 to 2003. The elder Mr. Samels would not allow electric service to the farm.

He made the power company put their poles across the road. With his passing, his sons had electricity brought to the house in the early 1950's. The farm is currently owned by the Archeological Conservancy. Digs have found artifacts indicating that Native Americans once inhabited the land.

Every year from April to October, the farm hosts a number of events, most notably tours of 4th grade students. Eighth grade students participate in re-enactments.

**The current event on Sunday, October 8th** is their fall Harvest Gathering. During the day there will be demonstrations of woodworking, ferrier, and home making skills. At this time, they believe the hit and miss engine will be set up as saw mill. They are hoping for live music performances.

**The Samel's Farm committee would like to slightly change the format for our participation this year.**

Our static display area is the shaded area adjacent to the windmill. If you are so inclined to take your tractor for a cruise, you are welcome to do so and tour the east pasture.

There is a gate at the northwest corner of the barn which leads you to the yard. It allows us to get to the display area without going back on the road.

**There is a requested revision for this year: Samels would like to have us do a tractor parade.**

As usual we would deploy the tractors in the north pasture. Then, at 1:00 PM do a tractor parade from there to the static display area. At 4:00 PM we would do another tractor parade back to the north pasture.

They are asking to have us deploy in the north pasture as in previous years. The change they would like to have is that at **1:00 pm** to have a **tractor parade from the pasture to the static display area.**

**Then at the end of the event, have a tractor parade back to the north pasture.**

The question came up as to whether any of our members also have classic cars. If so, they are inviting those to be displayed at the same time. If one (or more) of our members want to display their vehicle, please advise me so I can pass that information on to Rich Weiland to add to their planning.

Visitors will again be parked in the pasture across the road.

~ *continured from page 7*

A cautionary note is again in place. I have not personally checked out this year that the landmarks are still in place.

Skegemog Point Road is 7.4 miles east of U.S. 31 on M-72. There is a prominent American flag on the hill at the northwest corner of Skegemog Point Road and M-72. The flag is harder to spot if there is a half-mast order in place. The road is just east of where the passing lanes begin.

Coming from the Kalkaska area, turn west on M-72 from U.S. 131. Drive 9.7 miles (+/-) to Skegemog Point Road. Turn north (right) from M-72. The north pasture entrance for our trailer parking/deployment is just shy of .2 mile north of the homestead driveway. The gate for the pasture

will be opened at 12:00 noon.

**ANNUAL CAUTIONARY NOTE:** Skegemog Point Road is popular for people who walk, run, and ride bicycles on the road. And, from personal experience, there could be the itinerant deer that casually walks across the road, seemingly lacking concern for approaching vehicles.

You know you are from Michigan when... You can flawlessly pronounce Charlevoix, Mackinac, Sault Ste. Marie, and Gratiot.

Greg Hansmeier



## August 2023 Prize drawing Winners!

Club T-shirt - won by Mike Polega

Collector Coca Cola Tin - won by Ted Boals (donated by Jerry Russell)

Tunnel to Towers Ball Cap - won by Ben Owens

\$25.00 was added to the Club coffers from ticket sales.

Thank you to Justin Polega for selling the raffle tickets, and Shannon Polega for spliting the tickets apart for drawing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Boals, 50-50/Prize Coordinator



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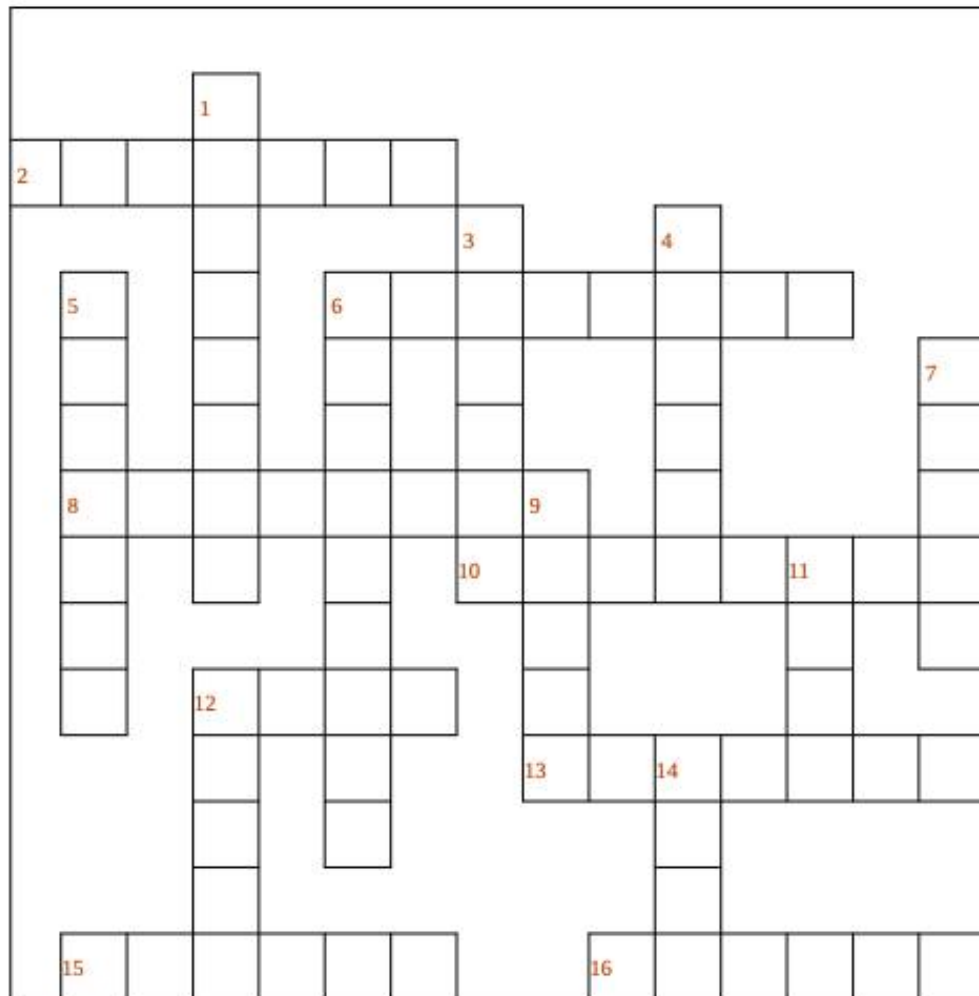
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**(Note: not actual photos, for reference only)**



# Fall



## Across

- 2 Halloween month  
 6 Rodent that hordes nuts  
 8 People at the first Thanksgiving  
 10 Thanksgiving month  
 12 Yellow vegetable that grows on stalks  
 13 To gather farm crops  
 15 Thanksgiving main dish  
 16 Falls from trees

## Down

- 1 Sport played with a brown ball  
 3 Another name for Fall  
 4 a color and a fruit  
 5 Great for pies or for carving  
 6 Keeps birds away from fields  
 7 Nut from an oak tree  
 9 Birds fly \_\_\_\_\_ for the winter  
 11 Bundles of hay  
 12 Drink made from apples  
 14 Tool to clean up leaves



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 A C U N R O C B E U Y J O F I Y R Z G P  
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 O G S C T D J Z J D A F E R N C S V L Q  
 F B V R L S G J N E E W O L L A H T B S  
 K G Y X E R M D I P C Z N C Y Y F L H O  
 Z F Y P H T A N Y M O P I D R A C E A V  
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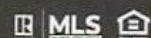
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**Bill Pelky**  
Northern Regional Store Manager



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**Adam Marsh**  
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**Devin Smith**  
Sales Representative



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**Jordan Willis**  
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**Village Market**  
**FOOD CENTERS**

Elk Rapids and Alden

**Torch Lake Veterinary**

ADRIANNE J. WAFFLE, D.V.M.

**231-331-6461**

**Village Car Wash**  
**Village Gas**

ELK RAPIDS